**SUMMARY:** The Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (CBTPA), which provides certain trade benefits for Haiti, was first enacted by Congress in 2000, and extended in 2010, is scheduled to expire in September 2020. It is important for Congress to act now to extend the program, since:

- (1) potential investors in Haiti need to know the trade program will exist for at least 7 years or more so they can be assured of their return on investment;
- (2) Haiti is brining on significant new factory infrastructure developed after the earthquake of 2010 and certainty in the trade rules for Haiti is more important than ever;
- (3) the CBTPA program is complementary to the HOPE/HELP trade programs enacted for Haiti between 2006 and 2010, which are now authorized through 2025;
- (4) if CBTPA expires existing production will migrate to the HOPE/HELP program and crowding future potential under HOP/HELP, thereby ending the incentive for further investors to come to Haiti;
- (5) since CBTPA requires the use of U.S. cotton, yarn and fabric, the CBTPA is an incentive program for U.S. exports to Haiti;
- (6) the U.S. consistently runs trade surpluses with Haiti, and the more successful Haiti can be economically, the larger its market will be for U.S. exports;
- (7) job creation remains essential to Haiti's economic and political stability and the continued reduction in any incentive for Haitian migration to the United States or other countries in the region, and the early extension of CBTPA would support further job creation in Haiti.

In short, Haiti needs the Congress to extend the CBTPA program for at least an additional ten years, and preferably longer, and this should be done in 2017. Otherwise, the existing uncertainty will begin to accelerate as a major concern, and additional jobs and investment will be lost.

#### ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND

- The Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (CBERA) and the U.S.-Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (CBTPA), collectively known as the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), remain essential for the economic development of Haiti.
- CBERA has been permanently authorized by Congress, while CBTPA, first enacted in 2000, is authorized through September 30, 2020. The reauthorization of CBTPA by Congress now would eliminate uncertainty and further support Haiti's economic recovery.
- CBPTA permits duty-free access for certain knit apparel (excluding socks and non-underwear T-shirts) wholly assembled in Haiti from fabrics made in the region from U.S. yarns. There is a quota for such imports of 970 million square meter equivalents annually. A separate quota of 12 million dozen exists for non-underwear T-shirts. CBTPA also provides Haiti duty-free access for certain footwear, handbags, luggage, flat goods, work gloves, and leather wearing apparel, along with benefits for canned tuna, petroleum products and watches and watch parts.

#### RENEWING CBTPA: A WIN-WIN FOR THE UNITED STATES AND HAITI

- The Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (CBERA) and the U.S.-Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (CBTPA), collectively known as the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), remain essential for the economic development of Haiti and to North American supply chains.
- CBERA was permanently authorized by Congress, while CBTPA, first enacted in 2000, is authorized through September 30, 2020. The reauthorization of CBTPA by Congress now would create the stability required for Haiti's continued economic recovery.
- CBPTA permits duty-free access for certain knit apparel (excluding socks and non-underwear T-shirts) wholly assembled in Haiti from fabrics made in the region from U.S. yarns. There is a quota for such imports of 970 million square meter equivalents (SMEs) annually. A separate quota of 12 million dozen SMEs exists for non-underwear T-shirts. CBTPA also provides Haiti duty-free access for certain footwear, handbags, luggage, flat goods, work gloves, and leather wearing apparel, along with benefits for canned tuna, petroleum products and watches and watch parts.
- In 2016, Haiti's exports under CBTPA represented over 34 percent of Haiti's almost \$1 billion in exports to the United States. Over the last ten years, Haiti's exports under CBTPA have ranged between \$300 and \$400 million annually, while total apparel exports account for over 90 percent of Haiti's exports.
- Congress also has granted Haiti additional market access preferences under the Haitian Hemispheric Opportunity
  for Partnership Encouragement Act (HOPE I) enacted in 2006, HOPE II enacted in 2008, and the Haiti Economic
  Lift Program Act (HELP) enacted in 2010, and was extended in 2015 through September 30, 2025. These
  programs function as a complement to Haiti's CBTPA benefits, and are not a substitute for them.
- The HOPE/HELP laws provide duty-free access quotas for third country fabrics of up to 200 million square meter
  equivalents each for eligible knit and woven apparel. There are exclusions for T-shirts, pullovers, and sweatshirts
  from the knit apparel quota, and limits for bottoms under the woven quota.
- The HOPE/HELP framework also permits the use of free trade and preference partner inputs up to a quota amount, and a matching earned import program if U.S. yarns and fabrics are used; and provides duty-free benefits for textile luggage, headgear, women's and girls' sleepwear, and certain made-up textiles.
- The CBTPA and HOPE/HELP programs function in an integrated way to support Haiti's most important
  industrial sector, apparel and textiles, which employs over 40,000 workers, and accounts for some 10 percent
  of GDP.
- Haiti remains the poorest country in the Hemisphere, with a GDP of only \$1800 (PPP) and an estimated 60 percent of its population still below the poverty line. But Haiti is moving in the right direction, and peacefully transitioned to a new President in February 2017. Recovery work continues from the deadly earthquake of 2010 that killed 200,000 Haitians, and from Hurricane Matthew in 2016 which destroyed 90 percent of the homes on the southern coast.
- Meanwhile, Haiti is bringing on significant new factory infrastructure, with growing interest from new foreign investors. The timely renewal by Congress of CBTPA would provide reassurance to such investors that there will be adequate access to the yarns and fabrics they will need, without prematurely using up the HOPE/HELP quotas, and would add momentum to Haiti's sector at a time when buyers are showing renewed interest in locating apparel production in the Hemisphere a true win-win trade program for the United States and Haiti.
- In 2016, the United States had a \$200 million trade surplus with Haiti, exporting \$1.1 billion and importing \$900 million; the U.S. surplus has ranged between \$200 and \$600 million annually since 2000.

Sorini, Samet & Associates LLC is registered as an agent on behalf of Ministry of Commerce and Industry of Haiti. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

- In 2016, Haiti's apparel exports under the CBTPA represented over **34 percent** of Haiti's almost \$1 billion in exports to the United States, and in 2015 it represented **41 percent**. Total apparel exports account for over **90 percent** of Haiti's exports. Over the last ten years, Haiti's exports under CBTPA have ranged between \$300 and \$400 million annually.
- Congress has also granted Haiti additional market access preferences under the Haitian Hemispheric Opportunity for Partnership Encouragement Act (HOPE I) enacted in 2006, HOPE II enacted in 2008, and the Haiti Economic Lift Program Act (HELP) enacted in 2010, and as extended in 2015 through September 30, 2025. These programs function as a complement to Haiti's CBTPA benefits, and are not a substitute for them.
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#### **SUMMARY**

The Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (CBTPA), which provides certain trade benefits for Haiti, was first enacted by Congress in 2000, and extended in 2010, is scheduled to expire in September 2020. It is important for Congress to consider pending legislation now to extend the program, since:

- (1) potential investors in Haiti need to know the trade program will exist for at least 7 years or more so they can be assured of their return on investment;
- (2) Haiti is brining on significant new factory infrastructure developed after the earthquake of 2010 and certainty in the trade rules for Haiti is more important than ever;
- (3) CBTPA is complementary to the HOPE/HELP trade programs enacted for Haiti between 2006 and 2010, which are now authorized through 2025;
- (4) if CBTPA expires existing production will migrate to the HOPE/HELP program and crowding future potential under HOP/HELP, thereby ending the incentive for further investors to come to Haiti;
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- (6) the U.S. consistently runs trade surpluses with Haiti, and the more successful Haiti can be economically, the larger its market will be for U.S. exports;
- (7) job creation remains essential to Haiti's economic and political stability and the continued reduction in any incentive for Haitian migration to the United States or other countries in the region, and the early extension of CBTPA would support further job creation in Haiti.

Haiti needs the U.S. Congress to consider legislation this year that extends the CBTPA program for at least an additional ten years. Otherwise, the existing uncertainty will begin to accelerate as a major concern, and additional jobs and investment will be lost.

➤ <u>H.R. 3849</u> - Reauthorizing the U.S. Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (CBTPA) Introduced by Representatives Terri Sewell (D-AL-7) and Carlos Curbelo (R-FL-26)

Republican Co-Sponsors	Democrat Co-Sponsors
Mia Love (UT4-4)	Karen Bass (CA-37)
David Schweikert (AZ-6)	Alcee Hastings (FL-37)

<u>S. 1943</u> - Amending the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act to extend the transition period for preferential treatment of certain textile and apparel articles
 Introduced by Senators Bill Nelson (D-FL) and Marco Rubio (R-FL)

#### ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND

- The Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (CBERA) and the U.S.-Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (CBTPA), collectively known as the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), remain essential for the continued economic development of Haiti.
- Duty-free eligibility under CBTPA requires apparel to be made from U.S. inputs, which helps sustain U.S. yarn production and subsequent exports. New investments have occurred in North Carolina from MAS Holdings and Everest Textiles that will create about 4,000 new American jobs specifically to produce inputs for apparel that is made in Haiti.
- CBPTA permits duty-free access for certain knit apparel (excluding socks and non-underwear T-shirts) wholly assembled in Haiti from fabrics made in the region from U.S. yarns. There is a quota for such imports of 970 million square meter equivalents annually. A separate quota of 12 million dozen exists for non-underwear T-shirts. CBTPA also provides Haiti duty-free access for certain footwear, handbags, luggage, flat goods, work gloves, and leather wearing apparel, along with benefits for canned tuna, petroleum products and watches and watch parts.
- In 2016, Haiti's apparel exports under the CBTPA represented over **34 percent** of Haiti's almost \$1 billion in exports to the United States, and in 2015 it represented **41 percent**. Total apparel exports account for over **90 percent** of Haiti's exports. Over the last ten years, Haiti's exports under CBTPA have ranged between \$300 and \$400 million annually.
- Congress has also granted Haiti additional market access preferences under the Haitian Hemispheric Opportunity for Partnership Encouragement Act (HOPE I) enacted in 2006, HOPE II enacted in 2008, and the Haiti Economic Lift Program Act (HELP) enacted in 2010, and as extended in 2015 through September 30, 2025. These programs function as a complement to Haiti's CBTPA benefits, and are not a substitute for them.
- The HOPE and HELP laws provide duty-free access quotas for third country fabrics of up to 200 million square meter equivalents each for eligible knit and woven apparel. There are exclusions for T-shirts, pullovers, and sweatshirts from the knit apparel quota, and limits for bottoms under the woven quota. FTA and preference partner inputs are also permitted, up to a quota amount, and a matching earned import program if U.S. yarns and fabrics are used; and provides duty-free benefits for textile luggage, headgear, women's and girls' sleepwear, and certain made-up textiles.
- The CBTPA and HOPE/HELP programs function in an integrated way to support Haiti's most important industrial sector, apparel and textiles, which employs over 40,000 workers, and accounts for 10 percent of GDP.
- Haiti remains the poorest country in the Hemisphere, with a GDP of only \$1800 (PPP) and an
  estimated 60 percent of its population still below the poverty line. But Haiti is moving in the right
  direction, and peacefully transitioned to a new President in February 2017. Recovery work remains
  from the deadly earthquake of 2010 that killed 200,000 Haitians, and from Hurricane Matthew in
  2016 which destroyed 90 percent of the homes on the southern coast.
- In 2016, the United States had a \$200 million trade surplus with Haiti, exporting \$1.1 billion and importing \$900 million; the U.S. surplus has ranged between \$200 and \$600 million annually since 2000.

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#### Guidance for Scoring H.R.3849/S.1943

#### H.R. 3849 - Reauthorizing the U.S. Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (CBTPA)

Representatives Terri Sewell (D-AL-7) and Carlos Curbelo (R-FL-26)

# <u>S. 1943</u> - Amending the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act to extend the transition period for preferential treatment of certain textile and apparel articles

Senators Bill Nelson (D-FL) and Marco Rubio (R-FL)

- CBPTA is currently funded until 2020.
- H.R. 3849/S.1943 would extend the program for 10 years, until 2030.

#### **Current CBPTA imports:**

- Total 2016 U.S. imports under CBTPA totaled \$391,942,001 in customs value.
  - o 78% of these imports were apparel and some textile bags.
    - 77.8% was sourced in Haiti, with less than 1% from Guyana.
  - The remaining 22% are exports of petroleum, fuel, lubricating and other similar oils from Trinidad and Tobago.
- If CBTPA were to expire, it is most likely that all apparel imports from Haiti would be then entered duty-free under the Haiti HOPE/HELP program.
- Duty loss consideration should only include lost duties of petroleum and similar oils. The fraction of 1% of apparel from Guyana is *de minimis* and should not be included.

#### **Details of lost duties if CBTPA expires:**

- All apparel items exported from Haiti to the United States under CBTPA would remain eligible for duty-free treatment under one of various provisions of the Haiti HOPE/HELP program, which is scheduled to expire in 2025.<sup>1</sup>
  - Specifically, these products could be diverted to the HOPE Value-Added rule, or, could be split between the HOPE Value-Added rule and HOPE Knit TPL.
    - CBPTA requires U.S. inputs, thus existing CBTPA imports would qualify under the HOPE Value-Added rule, which requires 60% U.S. or CBTPA beneficiary country value-added.
- Guyana's apparel exports would become dutiable, amounting to a little over \$1 thousand in duties lost to U.S. Customs, which is de minimis and need not be considered.
- Petroleum and similar oil exports from Trinidad and Tobago's would also become dutiable
  - In 2016, duties collected would have been almost \$20.5 million.

In total, CBTPA's extension would result in approximately \$20,485,049 in annual loss duties. 75% of that would be \$15,363,019 annually, and \$153,630,194 over ten years.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The above calculations assume that Haiti HOPE/HELP will be extended past 2025. Since its inception, the program has not lapsed.

#### 2016 U.S. Imports under CBTPA from all Countries

Customs Value & Quantity & Duties Lost

		Customs Value	Units of			
		Customs Value	Quantity		Duties Paid if	
Country	HTS Number	2016 In Actual Dollars	2016 quantity in dozens unless	Duty Rate	Dutiable in actual \$s	
			specified			
Guyana	6114303060 MEN'S OR BOYS' OTHER GARMENTS, KNITTED OR CROCHETED, OF MAN-MADE FIBERS: OTHER APPAREL	298,050	1,484	14.9	\$ 221.	12
,	6114302010 OTHER GARMENTS, KNITTED OR CROCHETED, OF MAN-MADE FIBERS: BODYSUITS AND BODYSHIRTS, CONTAINING 5 PERCENT OR MORE OF ELASTOMERIC YARN OR RUBBER THREAD	37,153	949	32	\$ 303.	68
	6104632030 WOMEN'S SHORTS, KNITTED OR CROCHETED, OF SYNTHETIC FIBERS, CONTAINING LESS THAN 23 PERCENT OF WOOL OR FINE ANIMAL HAIR	34,273	1057	28.2	\$ 298.	07
	6110303059 WOMEN'S OR GIRLS' PULLOVERS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES OF MAN-MADE FIBERS KNITTED OR CROCHETED, BUT NOT KNIT TO SHAPE, NESOI	23,759	626	32	\$ 200.	32
Subtotal - Guyana		393,235			\$ 1,023.	19
Haiti	6109100012 MEN'S COTTON OTHER T-SHIRTS, KNITTED OR CROCHETED, EXCEPT UNDERWEAR	120,667,689	7,874,526			
	6110202069  MEN'S OR BOYS' PULLOVERS AND SIM. ART. OF COTTON CONTAINING LESS THAN 36 PERCENT BY WEIGHT OF FLAX FIBERS KNITTED OR CROCHETED, BUT NOT KNIT TO SHAPE	84,052,126	5,495,149			
	6109100004  MEN'S OR BOYS' COTTON T-SHIRTS, KNIT OR CROCHETED, ALL WHITE, SHORT SLEEVES, CREW/V-NECK W/ MITERED SEAM AT CENTER OF V, NO POCKETS TRIM OR EMBROIDRY	35,785,142	2,270,907			
	6109100007 MEN'S OR BOYS' COTTON UNDERWEAR SINGLETS, KNITTED OR CROCHETED, ALL WHITE, WITHOUT POCKETS, TRIM OR EMBROIDERY	23,764,552	1,994,184			
	6109100014 BOYS' COTTON OTHER T-SHIRTS, KNITTED OR CROCHETED, EXCEPT UNDERWEAR	14,492,072	1,103,216			
	6109901007 MEN'S T-SHIRTS, KNITTED OR CROCHETED, OF OTHER TEXTILE MATERIALS: OF MAN- MADE FIBERS	8,967,763	406,305			
	6109100018 MEN'S COTTON TANKTOPS AND OTHER SINGLETS, KNITTED OR CROCHETED, EXCEPT UNDERWEAR	7,908,002	562,721			
	6109100027 MEN'S OR BOYS' OTHER ARTICLES SIMILAR TO T-SHIRTS, TANK TOPS AND SINGLETS OF COTTON, KNITTED OR CROCHETED, EXCEPT UNDERWEAR	3,228,506	138,939			
	6109901009 BOYS' T-SHIRTS, KNITTED OR CROCHETED, OF OTHER TEXTILE MATERIALS: OF MAN-MADE FIBERS	2,437,958	171,111			
	6110303053 MEN'S OR BOYS' PULLOVERS AND SIMILAR ARTICLES OF MAN-MADE FIBERS KNITTED OR CROCHETED, BUT NOT KNIT TO SHAPE, NESOI	1,805,875	120,559			

		Customs Value	Units of Quantity		
Countries	UTC Number	2016	2016	Duty Bata	Duties Paid if Dutiable
Country	HTS Number	In Actual Dollars	quantity in dozens unless specified	Duty Rate	in actual \$s
	6109100040	705,241	37,185		
	WOMEN'S COTTON T-SHIRTS, KNITTED OR				
	CROCHETED, EXCEPT UNDERWEAR 6109901049	395,781	23,619		
	MEN'S OR BOYS' ARTICLES				
	KNITTED/CROCHETED MADE OF MAN-MADE				
	FIBERS, EXCEPT T-SHIRTS, TANK TOPS & THERMAL UNDERSHIRTS, NESOI				
	6110202079	289,941	14,743		
	WOMEN'S OR GIRLS' PULLOVERS AND SIM.  ART. OF COTTON CONTAINING LESS THAN 36				
	PERCENT BY WEIGHT OF FLAX FIBERS				
	KNITTED/CROCHETED, BUT NOT KNIT TO		1		
	SHAPE 6109100023	183,574	18,357		<del></del>
	BOYS' COTTON TANKTOPS AND OTHER	163,374	18,337		
	SINGLETS, KNITTED OR CROCHETED, EXCEPT				
	UNDERWEAR 6104420010	165,754	5,625		
	WOMEN'S DRESSES, KNITTED OR	105,754	5,625		
	CROCHETED, OF COTTON				
	6111202000	104,595	8,139		
	BABIES GARMENTS AND CLOTHING ACCESSORIES, KNITTED OR CROCHETED, OF				
	COTTON: T-SHIRTS, SINGLETS AND SIMILAR				
	GARMENTS, EXCEPT THOSE AS PARTS OF				
	SETS 6109901013	51,335	1,706		
	MEN'S TANKTOPS AND SINGLETS, KNITTED				
	OR CROCHETED, OF OTHER TEXTILE MATERIALS: OF MAN-MADE FIBERS				
	IMATERIALS. OF IVIAN-IVIADE FIBERS		1		
	6205302050	18,265	273		
	MEN'S OTHER SHIRTS, OF MAN-MADE FIBERS, NOT KNITTED, WITH TWO OR MORE				
	COLORS IN THE WARP AND/OR THE FILLING				
	5400400070	40.220	550		
	6109100070 WOMEN'S OR GIRLS' OTHER ARTICLES	10,320	550		
	SIMILAR TO T-SHIRTS, TANK TOPS, SINGLETS				
	OF COTTON, KNITTED OR CROCHETED,				
	EXCEPT UNDERWEAR 4202316000	6,000	12,000		
	ARTICLES NORMALLY CARRIED IN POCKET OR	,			
	HANDBAG,OUTER SURFACE OF				
	LEATHER,COMPOSITION LEATHER,OR PATENT LEATHER,OTHER THAN REPTILE		п		
	LEATHER				n
	6205302080	1,631	26		
	BOYS' OTHER SHIRTS, OF MAN-MADE FIBERS, NOT KNITTED, WITH LESS THAN TWO				
	COLORS IN THE WARP AND/OR THE FILLING,		9		
	OTHER 4202299000	784	56 each		
	HANDBAGS,OUTER SURFACE NOT OF	7.04	50 each		
	LEATHER, COMPOSITION LEATHER, OR				
	PATENT LEATHER, NOT OF PLASTIC SHEETING OR TEXTILE MATERIALS, NOT COVERED WITH				
	PAPER				
ubtotal - Haiti		305,043	auantitui-		
			quantity in barrels		
rin & Tobago	2709002090	86,199,882	2,035,329		
	PETROLEUM OILS AND OILS OBTAINED FROM BITUMINOUS MINERALS, TESTING 25				
	DEGREES API OR MORE, CRUDE, NESOI				
				10.5¢/bbl	\$ 20,455,056.45
	2710190630 FUEL OIL NO. 6 (SAYBOLT UNIV VISCOSITY AT	155,431	4,916		
	37.8 DEG C GT 125 SEC) DISTILLATE AND				
	RESIDUAL FUEL OILS TESTING LT 25 DEGREES				
	API, NOT CONTAINING BIODIESEL		1		

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		Customs Value	Units of Quantity		,	Outies Paid if
Country	HTS Number	2016 In Actual	2016 quantity in	Duty Rate	Dutiable in actual \$s	
		Dollars	dozens unless specified			
	2710193080	67,050	1,083			
	LUBRICATING OILS WITH OR WITHOUT					
	ADDITIVES, NESOI			84¢/bbl	\$	909.72
,	2710193020	57,964	828			
	AUTOMOTIVE, DIESEL OR MARINE ENGINE		177			
	(EXCEPT TURBINE) LUBRICATING OILS					
		1		84¢/bbl	\$	695.52
	2710193040	17,986	278			
	AUTOMOTIVE GEAR OILS			84¢/bbl	\$	233.52
,	2710993100	4,800	1,136			
	WASTES OF LUBRICATING OILS			84¢/bbl	\$	954.24
	2710990500	2,747	70	5.25¢/bbl		
	WASTES OF DISTILLATE AND RESIDUAL FUEL					
	OILS WHETHER OR NOT BLENDED, TESTING					
	UNDER 25 DEGREES API				\$	367.50
Subtotal Trin & Tobago		86,505,860				
					\$	20,484,026
Total Guyana & Trin &						
Tobago					\$	20,485,049
75% of duties lost (not						
including Guyana or						
Haiti)					\$	15,363,019
10-yr					\$	153,630,190

Sources: Data on this site have been compiled from tariff and trade data from the U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. International Trade Commission.

Sorini, Samet & Associates LLC is registered as an agent on behalf of Ministry of Commerce and Industry of Haiti. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

115TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

# H.R.3849

To extend certain provisions of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act until September 30, 2030, and for other purposes.

#### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**SEPTEMBER 27, 2017** 

Ms. Sewell of Alabama (for herself, Mr. Curbelo of Florida, Ms. Bass, and Mrs. Love) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

### A BILL

- To extend certain provisions of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act until September 30, 2030, and for other purposes.
  - 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
  - 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
  - 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
  - 4 This Act may be cited as the "Extension of the Carib-
  - 5 bean Basin Economic Recovery Act".
  - 6 SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF THE CARIBBEAN BASIN ECONOMIC
  - 7 RECOVERY ACT.
  - 8 Section 213 of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recov-
  - 9 ery Act (19 U.S.C. 2703) is amended as follows:

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1	(1) EXTENSION FOR CERTAIN KNIT APPAREL
2	ARTICLES.—In clause (iii) of subsection (b)(2)(A)—
3	(A) in subclause (II)(ce), by striking "Sep-
4	tember 30, 2020" and inserting "September 30,
5	2030"; and
6	(B) in subclause (IV)(dd), by striking
7	"September 30, 2020" and inserting "Sep-
8	tember 30, 2030''.
9	(2) EXTENSION OF LIMITATION WITH RESPECT
10	TO CERTAIN OTHER APPAREL ARTICLES.—In clause
11	(iv)(II) of such subsection, by striking "18" and in-
12	serting "28".
13	(3) EXTENSION OF TRANSITION PERIOD.—In
14	subsection (b)(5)(D)(i), by striking "September 30,
15	2020" and inserting "September 30, 2030".

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115TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

# S. 1943

 $\Pi$ 

To amend the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act to extend the transition period for preferential treatment of certain textile and apparel articles.

#### IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 5, 2017

Mr. Nelson (for himself and Mr. Rubio) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

# A BILL

To amend the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act to extend the transition period for preferential treatment of certain textile and apparel articles.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
- 4 This Act may be cited as the "Caribbean Trade Ex-
- 5 tension Act of 2017".

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1	SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF TRANSITION PERIOD FOR PREF-
2	ERENTIAL TREATMENT OF CERTAIN TEXTILE
3	AND APPAREL ARTICLES.
4	Section 213(b) of the Caribbean Basin Economic Re-
5	covery Act (19 U.S.C. 2703(b)) is amended—
6	(1) in paragraph (2)(A)—
7	(A) in clause (iii)—
8	(i) in subclause (II)(cc), by striking
9	"2020" and inserting "2030"; and
10	(ii) in subclause (IV)(dd), by striking
11	"2020" and inserting "2030"; and
12	(B) in clause (iv)(II), by striking "18" and
13	inserting "28"; and
14	(2) in paragraph (5)(D)(i), by striking "2020"
15	and inserting "2030".

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August 4, 2017

The Honorable Kevin Brady (R-TX-8) Chairman, House Ways and Means Committee 1102 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal (D-MA-1) Ranking Member, House Ways and Means Committee 1102 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Brady and Ranking Member Neal:

On behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus, I write today to encourage the Committee to take prompt action to extend the authorization period for the Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (CBTPA). Although the program will not expire until September 30, 2020, the existing uncertainty about its renewal has begun to undermine economic opportunities for the Caribbean region and especially Haiti, which is the primary beneficiary of CBTPA.

Indeed, Haiti continues to make strides toward economic recovery, has established greater political stability and is bringing on significant new factory infrastructure for its essential apparel sector. The benefits for production in Haiti from the CBTPA program are important to encourage new investors – who normally need seven to ten years of predictability to recover their investment cost. While we are aware of recent labor disputes in the apparel industry- and are hopeful that there are mutually agreeable solutions going forward that will help workers-we know that the industry has been critical for economic development and growth. That is why an extension of the program this year is essential.

The CBPTA was enacted in 2000 as an addition to the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (CBERA), and CBTPA provides duty-free access to articles not covered by CBERA, including certain apparel and footwear. In 2016, Haiti's exports under the CBTPA represented over one-third of Haiti's almost \$1 billion in exports to the United States. Over the last ten years, Haiti's exports under the CBTPA have ranged between \$300 and \$400 million annually, and apparel exports account for over 90 percent of Haiti's total exports

The CBTPA is the original framework for Haiti's apparel trade that has been built upon by additional legislation, including the Hemispheric Opportunity through Partnership Encouragement Act (HOPE), HOPE II and HELP bills passed by the Congress, which were designed to complement CBTPA, not as an alternative to CBTPA. If CBTPA were to expire, the HOPE/HELP programs will have to absorb the apparel trade now using CBTPA, and this will prevent new investment in Haiti and reduce growth in employment in the sector.

Not only would the CBTPA's expiration negatively impact Haiti's economy, but expiration would also have the same result for U.S. yarn and fabric producers. The CBTPA only permits duty-free access to certain apparel made from U.S. or regional fabrics that are made from U.S. yarns. Thus, if we fail to renew this important program, the incentive in the program to use fabric made from U.S. yarns will be eliminated.

We strongly encourage your support and ask you to work with the Committee and the Congress to extend the CBTPA program this year.

Thank you,

Cedric L. Richmond

Chair

Haiti main beneficiary of Caribbean trade programme



#### Haiti main beneficiary of Caribbean trade programme

9 October 2017 | By: Leonie Barrie

The Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (CBERA) continues to have a "small but positive impact" on exports, a new report has found, with Haiti's apparel sector one of the main beneficiaries.

The latest biennial update from the US International Trade Commission (USITC) found total imports under the trade preference programme declined 43.2% in 2016 to \$875.5m, from \$1.5bn in 2015. The decline was driven primarily by declining imports of energy products, specifically crude petroleum and methanol, from Trinidad and Tobago.

However, CBERA provisions for Haiti have had a strong, positive effect on export earnings and job creation in Haiti's apparel sector, meaning US imports of textiles and apparel increased if imports under the HOPE and HELP Acts are taken into account.

Textiles and apparel, supplied mainly by Haiti (not including imports under HOPE/HELP), accounted for 34.9% of imports under CBERA in 2016.



Textiles and apparel from Haiti accounted for 35% of imports under CBERA in 2016

The CBERA programme, which has been in operation since 1984, gives preferential tariff treatment to most products imported into the US from 17 designated beneficiary Caribbean countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Curacao, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago). It was modified by the Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act of 2000 (CBTPA), and the HOPE and HELP Acts.

The report publication 'Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act: Impact on US Industries and Consumers and on Beneficiary Countries, Twenty-third Report, 2015-16,' also found that investment for the near-term production and export of CBERA-eligible products is not likely to result in imports that would have a measurable economic impact on the US economy generally and on US producers.

It also found CBERA has a negligible effect on US consumers.

Exporting CBERA-eligible goods is a challenge for many CBERA beneficiaries because of supply-side constraints, including inadequate infrastructure and an increasing focus on the export of services.

Separately, the expiry of the Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (CBPTA) in three years' time is causing concern for US apparel and footwear retailers and importers, especially those who source from Haiti.

#### **CBPTA** expiry raises concerns for Haiti apparel sourcing

While a separate review of the Earned Import Allowance Program (EIAP) designed to boost US imports of apparel from the Dominican Republic has also found it is still not providing enough incentives to make a difference.

#### Dominican Republic apparel scheme still fails to lift exports

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## MAS Holdings begins manufacturing in United States

2017-05-04 00:00:07



From left: Acme McCrary CEO Neal Anderson, Acme McCrary Chairman Bill Redding, MAS Holdings Chairman Deshamanya Mahesh Amalean, MAS Holdings COO Shirendra Lawrence, Acme McCrary President Donnie White and MAS Western Hemisphere Strategy CEO Ramesh Fernando

The Sri Lankan apparel major, MAS Holdings, which has extensive operations in the South Asian region, has taken a significant step as it sealed its commitment to become the first Sri Lankan apparel group to commence manufacturing in the United States.

MAS Holdings will achieve this through the acquisition of the business operations of Acme McCrary Corporation, which is established in North Carolina.

Its Western Hemisphere Organisation will operate in four locations. The existing manufacturing facilities in Asheboro, North Carolina, USA and Choloma, Honduras will be upgraded and complemented by a brand-new facility in the Caracol Industrial Park in Northern Haiti.

In addition, the collaboration includes a distribution centre, also in Asheboro.

The four facilities, totalling over 800,000 square feet, will add immense value to MAS, complementing its Sri Lanka and wider offering to its US Customers with an 'on-shore and near-shore' strategy, to deliver speed and flexibility, enabling the organisation to react rapidly to the dynamic market environment.

According to foreign news reports, the acquisition has a price tag of US \$ 20 million.

It is noteworthy that MAS' recent global expansion announcements come in the backdrop of a significant investment it made earlier this year in Sri Lanka, pledging over US \$ 28 million for export-oriented projects at the new MAS Fabric Park Giriulla, in Sri Lanka.

The 42-acre facility is expected to create over 3,000 direct employment opportunities in three years of operations.

Commenting on the venture, MAS Holdings Chairman Deshamanya Mahesh Amalean said, "As a continuously evolving organisation, we are constantly looking to transform our design and manufacturing landscape to best represent the dynamic interests of our customers.

The need for a robust model that enhances speed of response and cost competitiveness without compromising quality, to ultimately provide winning product creations for our customers, has always been at the core of our business principles. Bringing the strength of MAS Holdings together with Acme McCrary Corporation's 100-year heritage will provide our customers with a unique value proposition, which we are honoured to champion, going forward."

Since its humble beginnings in 1987, MAS Holdings has significantly expanded its operations in Sri Lanka and employs over 70,000 associates on the island, in 40 locations. Its international expansions have added a further 15,000 associates in 14 countries, prior to these new investments.

MAS is a globally recognised concept-to-delivery solutions provider, with an ecosystem of design offices, apparel plants, an integrated supply chain, customised IT solutions for the apparel and footwear industry, private Industrial Parks and retail brands.

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mahinda Thursday, 4 May 2017 11:41

Great. Good to see a Sri Lankan entity expanding beyond the borders. I hope the Trump administration will admire this and reciprocate. Good luck!

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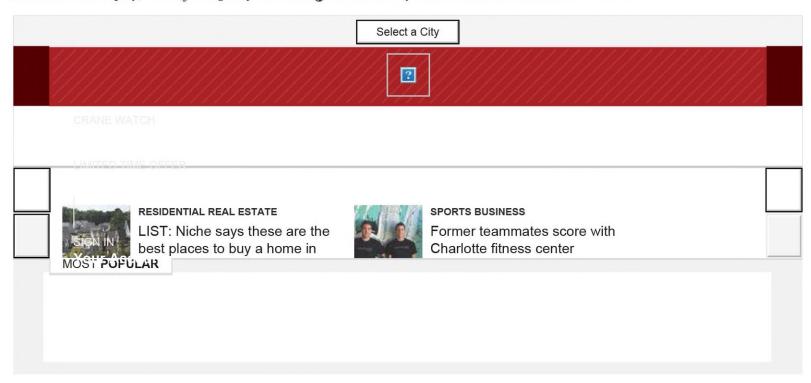
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INDUSTRY NEWS 

MANUFACTURING

# Taiwanese textile company to bring 610 jobs to fabrics plant in Forest City

Dec 6, 2016, 2:16pm EST

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A Taiwanese company will spend \$18.5 million to bring a sports fabric weaving and finishing operation that will employ 610 to

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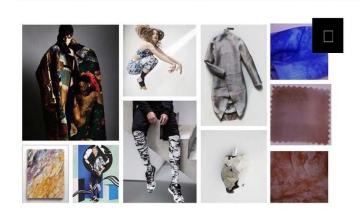
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Everest Textiles USA, a unit of Everest Textile Co. Ltd. in Tainan City, Taiwan, expects to start production of the fabric during the second or third quarter next year, says <a href="Tom-Johnson">Tom-Johnson</a>, interim director of the Rutherford County Economic Development Commission.



Here's an example of a new Everest Textile fabric.

徐慧倫JOAN.HSU

"We are very pleased to see the return of this type of industry to the county," Johnson says.

N.C. Rep. <u>David Rogers</u> says the textile's return to Rutherford County shows western North Carolina is "competitive with any region in the world when it comes to manufacturing."

Everest Textiles will take over an existing building in Forest City, which measures almost 400,000 square feet, to create the plant. Workers there will weave, dye and finish the fabric, which will be used in sports apparel.

It's the first U.S. operation for Everest Textile Co. The Taiwanese company now supplies apparel companies including Nike (NYSE: NKE), Columbia (NASDAQ: COLM) and Patagonia from factories in Taiwan, China and Thailand.

<u>Scott Chen</u>, vice president of Everest Textile Co., says the company is known for innovation.

"Everest positions itself as one of the leading global enterprises and commits to contribute to human society by providing innovative, environmentally friendly and comfortable textile products to the industry and consumers," he says.

<u>Michael Chen</u>, U.S. legal counsel for Everest Textile, says the plant represents a "tremendous opportunity for all parties involved."

"As a native North Carolinian, it is exciting to see Everest Textile USA investing in the state and people of North Carolina, while also creating innovative products," Chen says.

Everest Textiles qualifies for about \$3.1 million in state and local incentives. The largest is a \$3 million state Job Development Investment Grant that will be paid to Everest Textiles over 12 years.

Johnson says he's been working on the project since March. He declined to disclose the exact location of the plant site, saying details haven't been worked out.

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